

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

NSC-05 SP-02 PM-03 L-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 TRSE-00

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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2047

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0143

LIMDIS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: SUGGESTED CONTINGENCY RESPONSE TO EASTERN
FREEZE PROPOSAL

THE FOLLOWING PAPER IS A PROPOSED RESPONSE TO THE
EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL WHICH HAS BEEN DRAFTED FOR
POSSIBLE USE IN WEEKLY INFORMAL MEETINGS WITH THE
EAST IN VIENNA. IT MAY BE OF USE FOR WASHINGTON
AGENCIES TO DRAW ON IN CONNECTION WITH THE PREPARATION
OF SECRETARY VANCE'S TRIP.

BEGIN TEXT:

CONTINGENCY RESPONSE TO EASTERN PROPOSAL FOR COLLECTIVE
MANPOWER FREEZE BASED ON EASTERN DATA.

1. TO HAVE A WORKABLE NO-INCREASE PROPOSAL, THERE MUST
BE EAST-WEST AGREEMENT ON THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVE DUTY
PERSONNEL ON EACH SIDE.

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2. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO SUCH AGREEMENT AT THIS TIME. A
FREEZE ON MILITARY MANPOWER IN A SITUATION WHERE THERE IS
SUBSTANTIAL DISAGREEMENT ON MANPOWER FIGURES WOULD NOT BE
EFFECTIVE AND WOULD BE A CONTINUING SOURCE OF MISUNDERSTANDING
AND CONTENTION.

3. MOREOVER, WESTERN FIGURES, IN WHOSE ACCURACY WE HAVE CONFIDENCE, SHOW THAT THE EAST HAS A CONSIDERABLE SUPERIORITY IN MILITARY MANPOWER.

4. HENCE, A FREEZE ON THE BASIS OF THE ACTUAL MANPOWER STRENGTHS IN THE AREA WOULD CONTRACTUALIZE THE EASTERN SUPERIORITY IN MILITARY MANPOWER. THIS THE WEST CANNOT ACCEPT.

5. THE EAST IS WELL AWARE THAT THERE IS A MAJOR AND AS YET UNRESOLVED DISCREPANCY BETWEEN WESTERN AND EASTERN FIGURES ON WARSAW TREATY MILITARY MANPOWER.

6. THIS BEING THE CASE, WE FIND IT SURPRISING THAT THE EAST SHOULD HAVE CHOSEN TO RENEW ITS FREEZE PROPOSAL AT THIS TIME.

7. THE FACT THAT THE EAST HAS DONE SO UNAVOIDABLY GIVES RISE TO QUESTIONS AS TO THE EASTERN MOTIVES FOR THIS STEP.

8. MOREOVER, EASTERN EFFORTS TO PRESS THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL PUBLICLY CAN ONLY HAVE THE EFFECT OF FOCUSING PUBLIC ATTENTION ON THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN FIGURES ON WARSAW PACT MILITARY MANPOWER.

9. SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL TO THE TALKS. (AS NEEDED: IN THE WEST, IT COULD ONLY INCREASE GENERAL SKEPTICISM AS TO EAST'S CREDIBILITY).

10. IN OUR VIEW, IT WOULD BE MORE FRUITFUL TO LEAVE THIS FREEZE PROPOSAL ASIDE AND CONTINUE DATA DISCUSSIONS IN
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VIENNA WITH THE AIM OF IDENTIFYING THE SOURCES FOR THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN FIGURES. END TEXT.

RESOR

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